Merger of Geological Sciences

162. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fifth Central Pay Commission had recommended merger of Geophysics (Exploration), Geophysics (Instrumentation) and Mineral Physics into one stream namely Geophysics in Geological Survey of India;

(b) if so, whether the Director General, Geological Survey of India, has also recommended the merger of above three streams in his Ministry; and

(c) if so, by when Government would approve the proposed merger of these three streams and issue notification in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The merger in the Senior Deputy Director General level posts has already been done and the Recruitment Rules have been amended accordingly, Regarding the merger in the Junior Time Scale/Senior Time Scale/Senior Administrative Grade level posts, a proposal for introduction of the Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS), in the merged scenario, is awaiting revision of the FCS Scheme itself.

Gas leakage in Nalco

†163. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas leakage in the smelter plant of National Aluminium company located in Orissa has greatly damaged the nearby areas;

(b) if so, the effect and quantum of damage thereof;

(c) the kind and amount of compensation given to the victims; and

(d) the details of various measures being taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir..

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) has been taking necessary steps to prevent leakage of gas in the Smelter Plant by installing high efficient fume treatment plant with dry scrubbing system which collects the gases and particular fluoride evolving from the pots of the smelter. The emission from the plant is regularly monitored by the Company and the State Pollution Control Board.

Identification of potential sites for iron-ore

164. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified potential sites of iron-ore in the country to increase domestic steel production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per the information provided by Ministry of Steel, no exercise is underway for identification of sites for iron-ore in the country to increase the domestic steel production.

(b) Does not arise.

Discovery of Platinum

165. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that traces of platinum have been discovered by the Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR) at Bhadrak chrome ore mine in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that this is the first time platinum has been found anywhere in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) No, Sir. The discovery of Platinum Group of Elements (PGE) has been made by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in the Buola Chromite Mine of M/s. Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd. (FACOR) and not in Bhadrak Chrome Ore Mines, in the year 1986-87.